

Message Text

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COMUSFORAZ TERCEIRA AZ

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EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT CMM PO

SUBJ: CLN PPD RPT PPD VIEWS OF AZOREAN SEPARATIST MOVEMENT

1. (C) JOAO BOSCO MOTA AMARAL CMM PPD RPT PPD AZOREAN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEPUTY, AND JOAO PAIVA, LOCAL PD RPT PPD LEADER, TOLD ME THAT PPD NOW BELIEVES THAT EIGHTY PERCENT OF AZOREANS FAVOR INDEPENDENCE. THEY SAID THAT SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE HAS GROWN MARKEDLY IN LAST TWO WEEKS. MOTA AMARAL CHECKED SOURCES WITHIN SEVERAL LOCAL FACTORIES AND FOUND CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT OF WORKERS FOR INDEPENDENCE. NATIONAL PPD LEADERS VISITED AZORES TO EXAMINE SITUATION FIRST HAND. PARTY FAVORS ASKING GOP TO HOLD REFERENDUM IN AZORES ON INDEPENDENCE QUESTION, BUT LEADERS REALIZE THAT GOP WOULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH A PROPOSAL. PAIVA AND MOTA AMARAL EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT AZOREAN SITUATION MOVING SO FAST

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THAT IT IS ESCAPING CONTROL OF POLITICAL PARTIES. PGH

2. (C) MOTA AMARAL BELIEVES THAT NO PROVOCATION IS NECESSARY TO TRIGGER

INDEPENDENCE, IT IS SUFFICIENT THAT "TROIKA" REMAIN IN POWER IN LISBON.

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PAIVA AND MOTA AMARAL BELIEVE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE MAY FIRST

OCCUR ON TERCEIRA. THEY SAID PPD COULD WORK WITH FLA WHERE INTERESTS AND POSITIONS OF TWO GROUPS DOVETAIL. MOTA AMARAL STRESSED THAT INDEPENDENCE WOULD NOT MEAN A RETURN TO PRE-APRIL TWENTY FIVE SITUATION AND THAT PPD FAVORS REFORM, NOT REVOLUTION. HE ADDED THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES COULD NOT IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZE AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE FOR FEAR OF APPEARING IMPERIALISTIC. BEST STRATEGY WOULD BE FOR INDEPENDENCE TO BE RECOGNIZED BY FRELIMO IN MOZAMBIQUE AND BY CHINESE WHO WOULD SEE AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE AS BLOW TO SOVIETS. THEN WESTERN COUNTRIES COULD RECOGNIZE AZORES WITHOUT DIFFICULTIES. HITCH IS THAT IT IS DIFFICULT FOR AZOREANS TO CONTACT FRELIMO AND CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES.

3. (C) PAVIA SAID SOME PEOPLE SUGGESTED FOR JUNTA GOVERNATIVA FOR AZORES MIGHT NOT BE WILLING TO SERVE SINCE THERE WERE NO GUARANTEES THAT JUNTA WOULD HAVE RESOURCES NEEDED TO DO JOB. PPD WAS NOT TELLING MEMBERSHOW TO RESPOND TO INVITATION TO SERVE, BUT SOME FEAR THAT SERVING ON JUNTA WOULD BURN THEM POLITICALLY. (NOTE: IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, MILITARY GOVERNOR HINTED THAT HE HAD ENCOUNTERED REFUSALS TO SEVE ON JUNTA.) PAVIA AND MOTA AMARAL THINK JUNTA GOVERNATIVA AND AZOREAN AUTONOMY ARE CONCEPTS WHOSE TIME MAY HAVE ALREADY PASSED. PGH

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4. (C) COMMENT: WE TEND TO AGREE WITH PPDS ESTIMATE OF SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE. FURTHERMORE, INDEPENDENCE IS LIKELY IF GOP WERE TO BECOME CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMUNIST, BUT WE BELIEVE IT IS MUCH LESS LIKELY IN SITUATION SHORT OF COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF PORTUGAL OR STRONG PROVOCATION FROM LISBON. IT NOW APPEARS THAT MAGALHAES IS INVITING INDIVIDUALS SUGGESTED BY PPD AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES TO SERVE ON JUNTA GOVERNATIVA. THIS SEEMS TO BE FURTHER INDICATION OF CONCILIATORY POLICY GENERALLY FOLLOWED BY GOP

SINCE JUNE SIX DEMONSTRATIONS.

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